

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 12870 300828Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-04

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-02 OMB-01 L-01 AID-05 IGA-01 MED-02 HEW-02

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /071 W

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R 300730Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7992

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12870

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, RP

SUBJECT: STATUS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134

1. THE GOP AND THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN AN INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE, COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR TO SHORE UP PHILIPPINE DEFENSES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND TO HALT THE SPREAD OF DRUG ABUSE WITHIN THE COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, WE ARE STEADILY ENCOURAGING THE PHILIPPINE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES WITH COUNTERPART AGENCIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

2. THE PHILIPPINE DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD (DDB), COMPOSED OF SIX CABINET MEMBERS, IS A WELL-STAFFED, COMPETENT CENTRAL AGENCY ENGAGED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM - FROM ENFORCEMENT TO REHABILITATION, FROM EDUCATION TO REGULATORY CONTROLS. OUR MISSION NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE (COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION AND THE TWO U.S. BASES AT SUBIC AND CLARK) CAREFULLY COORDINATES ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINE COMMUNITY WITH THE DDB.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 12870 300828Z

3. SINCE 1972, HEROIN AND OTHER NARCOTICS HAVE ALMOST DIS-  
APPEARED FROM THE PHILIPPINE SCENE. DRUG ABUSE PATTERS HAVE,  
HOWEVER, SHIFTED TO THE SOFT DRUGS AND THE GOP HAS BEEN CON-  
CENTRATING ITS EFFORTS IN RECENT MONTHS TO REDUCING THE FLOW  
OF LEGITIMATE DRUGS INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS.

4. THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING COURSE IN DRUG COMPLIANCE  
INVESTIGATION TO BE CONDUCTED BY DEA OUTSIDE THE U.S.  
IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN MANILA. A TEAM OF DEA INSTRUCTORS IN  
COORDINATION WITH PHILIPPINE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
INSPECTORS IS TEACHING A FOUR-WEEK COURSE TO 80 PHILIPPINE LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. FOLLOWING THIS COURSE, THE PHILIPPINE  
NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY PLANS TO BUILD ON THE TRAINING AND  
EXPERTISE THUS PROVIDED TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL COURSES WITH ITS  
OWN INSTRUCTORS IN THE FUTURE. THIS PLAN FOLLOWS A SIMILAR  
PATTERN ADOPTED IN 1972-73 AFTER THE COMPLETION OF A TWO-WEEK  
TRAINING COURSE IN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN MANILA  
BY BNDD IN MID-1972. IN SUBSEQUENT MONTHS THE POLICE COMMISSION  
ORGANIZED ITS OWN COURSE AND IN THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE GIVEN OVER  
600 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TRAINING IN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION.  
SIXTY-FIVE FIVE-MAN ANTI-NARCOTICS UNITS HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED  
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FROM THE GRADUATES OF THIS TRAINING AND  
EQUIPPED WITH BASIC INVESTIGATIVE EQUIPMENT BY USAID.  
TWENTY-FIVE MORE TEAMS ARE PLANNED. IN ADDITION, THE U.S.  
CUSTOMS SERVICE JUST CONCLUDED A SERIES OF FOUR TWO-WEEK  
TRAINING COURSES IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION FOR 159 PHILIPPINE  
CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND ANTICIPATES FURTHER TRAINING ASSISTANCE  
IN 1975.

5. THE CAPABILITY OF THE PHILIPPINE POLICE ACADEMY TO PROVIDE  
SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS TRAINING IS ATTRACTING INCREASING ATTENTION  
FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THE INDONESIAN AND TWO GUAMANIAN  
OFFICERS HAVE ENROLLED IN RECENT COURSES AND SEVERAL OTHER  
GOVERNMENTS ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING NARCOTICS  
TRAINING HERE. WE TAKE CERTAIN PRIDE IN HAVING FOSTERED THIS  
CAPABILITY THROUGH US-ASSISTED TRAINING BOTH IN THE PHILIPPINES  
AND IN THE U.S. AND THROUGH CONTINUOUS CONSULTATION AND ADVISORY  
SERVICE FROM VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF OUR MISSION, EXPECIALLY DEA AND  
USAID.

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PAGE 03 MANILA 12870 300828Z

6. COUNTRY-WIDE ARREST AND SEIZURE STATISTICS ARE RATHER SPOTTY.  
NO MAJOR SEIZURES HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTLY, SUGGESTING THAT  
INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS ARE AVOIDING THIS PLACE. MOST OF  
THE NUMEROUS CASES RECORDED INVOLVE RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITIES  
OF POLY-DRUGS AND MAJIJUANA. DRUG ABUSE STATISTICS ARE ALSO  
MEAGER BUT SUGGEST A LEVELING-OFF, BUT NOT YET A REDUCTION, IN THE  
USE OF DRUGS. THIS PROBLEM IS BEING ATTACKED BY NATIONWIDE AND  
LOCAL PRVENTION AND EDUCATION EFFORTS AND BY REDUCING THE

AVAILABILITY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS THROUGH GREATER ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE METHODS.

7. RECOMMENDATION: WE BELIEVE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE AND CONTINUOUS PROGRAM OF ENFORCEMENT TRAINING IS A KEY ELEMENT IN STRENGTHENING THE ABILITY OF A COUNTRY TO DISCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND REDUCE DRUG ABUSE. GREATER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY USG AGENCIES TO PROVIDE MORE MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS FOR USE ABROAD AND A GREATER NUMBER OF TRAINING SLOTS IN THE U.S. FOR SELECTED KEY PERSONNEL FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO ENSURE A CONTINUING FLOW BACK OF TRAINED EXPERTS TO ALL COUNTRIES. THE FIELD OF COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO MANY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, AND A MAJOR EFFORT BY DEA TO PROVIDE MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS TO MEET THIS NEED WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THE EXPERTISE BEING DEVELOPED IN EAST ASIA.

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## Message Attributes

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